

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

1           1.     A method of integrating the installation, on one or more target machines, of  
2     software prerequisites with a to-be-installed (TBI) software application, comprising the  
3     steps of:

4                 determining if said TBI software application requires any software prerequisites;

5                 obtaining all required software prerequisites;

6                 creating a super image comprising the TBI software application wrapped with said  
7     software prerequisites; and

8                 distributing said super image to all machines on which said software application is  
9     to be installed.

1           2.     A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step of creating a super image  
2     comprises at least the steps of:

3                 defining an object model representing the integrated software installation; and

4                 populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the TBI  
5     software application and said required software prerequisites.

1           3.     A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said step of creating a super image  
2     further comprises at least the step of instantiating one or more objects according to the  
3     defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated object(s).

1           4.     A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the instantiating step instantiates  
2     an object for the the TBI software application and one or more component objects for each  
3     of said prerequisites.

1           5.     A method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising the step of using the  
2     populated object model to install the TBI software application.

1           6.     A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the step of using the populated  
2     object model further comprises at least the steps of:  
3             identifying one or more target machines on which the TBI software application is  
4     to be installed;  
5             downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and  
6             performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the  
7     downloaded super image.

1           7.     A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said super image is a temporary  
2     file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the installation process.

1           8.     A method for improving installation of software packages on one or more  
2     target machines, comprising the steps of:

3 identifying, prior to installation, software prerequisites that need to be installed with  
4 a particular software package;

5 obtaining said identified software prerequisites;

6 creating a super image comprising said software package and said identified  
7 software prerequisites; and

8 distributing said super image to all target machines.

1 9. A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said step of creating a super image  
2 comprises at least the steps of:

3 defining an object model representing the software installation being performed; and

4 populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the particular  
5 software package and any required software prerequisites identified.

1 10. A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein said step of creating a super image  
2 further comprises at least the step of instantiating one or more objects according to the  
3 defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated object(s).

1 11. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the instantiating step instantiates  
2 an object for the particular software package and one or more component objects for each  
3 of said identified software prerequisites.

1           12.    The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of using the populated  
2   object model to install the particular software package.

1           13.    The method of claim 12, wherein the step of using the populated object  
2   model further comprises at least the steps of:

3           identifying one or more target machines on which the particular software package  
4   is to be installed;

5           downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and

6           performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the  
7   downloaded super image.

1           14.    A method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said super image is a temporary  
2   file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the installation process.

1           15.    A system of integrating the installation, on one or more target machines, of  
2   software prerequisites with a to-be-installed (TBI) software application, comprising:

3           means for determining if said TBI software application requires any software  
4   prerequisites;

5           means for obtaining all required software prerequisites;

6           means for creating a super image comprising the TBI software application wrapped  
7   with said software prerequisites; and

8 means for distributing said super image to all machines on which said software  
9 application is to be installed.

1 16. A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said means for creating a super  
2 image comprises at least:

3 means for defining an object model representing the integrated software installation;  
4 and

5 means for populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the  
6 TBI software application and said required software prerequisites.

1 17. A system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said means for creating a super  
2 image further comprises at least means for instantiating one or more objects according to  
3 the defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated  
4 object(s).

1 18. A system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said means for instantiating  
2 instantiates an object for the the TBI software application and one or more component  
3 objects for each of said prerequisites.

1 19. A system as set forth in claim 18, further comprising means for using the  
2 populated object model to install the TBI software application.

1           20.    A system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said means for using the populated  
2   object model further comprises at least:

3               means for identifying one or more target machines on which the TBI software  
4   application is to be installed;

5               means for downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and

6               means for performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using  
7   the downloaded super image.

1           21.    A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said super image is a temporary  
2   file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the installation process.

1           22.    A computer program product embodied on computer-readable medium for  
2   integrating the installation, on one or more target machines, of software prerequisites with  
3   a to-be-installed (TBI) software application, the computer program product comprising  
4   executable instructions for:

5               determining if said TBI software application requires any software prerequisites;

6               obtaining all required software prerequisites;

7               creating a super image comprising the TBI software application wrapped with said  
8   software prerequisites; and

9 distributing said super image to all machines on which said software application is  
10 to be installed.

1 23. A computer program product as set forth in claim 22, wherein said computer  
2 executable instructions for creating a super image include computer executable instructions  
3 for:

4 defining an object model representing the integrated software installation; and  
5 populating the object model with attributes and methods to describe the TBI  
6 software application and said required software prerequisites.

1 24. A computer program product as set forth in claim 23, wherein said computer  
2 executable instructions for a super image further includes computer executable instructions  
3 for: instantiating one or more objects according to the defined object model, and wherein  
4 the computer executable instructions for populating the object model populates the  
5 instantiated object(s).

1 25. A computer program product as set forth in claim 24, wherein computer  
2 executable instructions for instantiating instantiates an object for the the TBI software  
3 application and one or more component objects for each of said prerequisites.

1           26.    A computer program product as set forth in claim 25, further comprising  
2   computer executable instructions for using the populated object model to install the TBI  
3   software application.

1           27.    A computer program product as set forth in claim 25, wherein computer  
2   executable instructions for using the populated object model further includes computer  
3   executable instructions for:

4           identifying one or more target machines on which the TBI software application is  
5   to be installed;

6           downloading the super image to the identified target machines; and

7           performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the  
8   downloaded super image.

1           28.    A computer program product as set forth in claim 22, wherein said super  
2   image is a temporary file that is deleted from said target machines upon completion of the  
3   installation process.